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History Center Launches New Digital Archive Documenting Pittsburgh Artist Aaronel deRoy Gruber

-The Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives has partnered with the Irving and Aaronel deRoy Gruber Foundation to digitize notes, sketches, photographs, and more from deRoy Gruber's six-decade career -

PITTSBURGH, March 13, 2025 – As the nation celebrates Women’s History Month in March, the Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives at the Heinz History Center, in collaboration with the [Irving and Aaronel deRoy Gruber Foundation](#), has launched a new digital archive that provides an intimate, behind-the-scenes look at the work of Pittsburgh artist Aaronel deRoy Gruber.

[The Aaronel deRoy Gruber Papers and Photographs](#) digital collection includes deRoy Gruber’s project files for more than 80 sculptures she created in the 1960s and 1970s. These files include notes, sketches, plans, invoices, work sheets, and photographs for sculptures, providing a detailed look at how one artist conceived and created her art. The digital archive also reveals a world of local contractors and foundries responsible for bringing these ideas into reality.

“The Foundation is honored to continue its relationship with the Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives at the Heinz History Center, recognizing the powerful connection between the Aaronel deRoy Gruber Papers and Photographs and digitized material, and our Foundation collection – together offering an exciting and informative resource for researchers studying the arts in Pittsburgh,” said Brittany Reilly, executive director of the Irving and Aaronel deRoy Gruber Foundation.

“Thanks to the vision of the deRoy Gruber family and the Irving and Aaronel deRoy Gruber Foundation, we are able to share a great Pittsburgh story with the entire world,” said Eric Lidji, director of the Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives at the Heinz History Center.

deRoy Gruber (1918-2011) was an internationally recognized artist who spent her career in Pittsburgh. Starting as an abstract painter in the early 1950s, she moved into sculpture and photography over a 60-year career. Skilled in creating art with various materials, she became known as an innovator in acrylic as a sculptural medium. deRoy Gruber exhibited in many one-person and group exhibitions in the United States and abroad. Her work is in more than 800 private and public collections, including the Smithsonian Institution, the DeCordova Museum,

the Carnegie Museum of Art, the Butler Institute of American Art, The Westmoreland Museum of American Art, and the Kawamura Memorial Museum of Art.

Founded in 1988, the Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives, part of the Detre Library & Archives at the Heinz History Center, collects, preserves, and makes accessible the documentary history of Jews and Jewish communities of Western Pa.

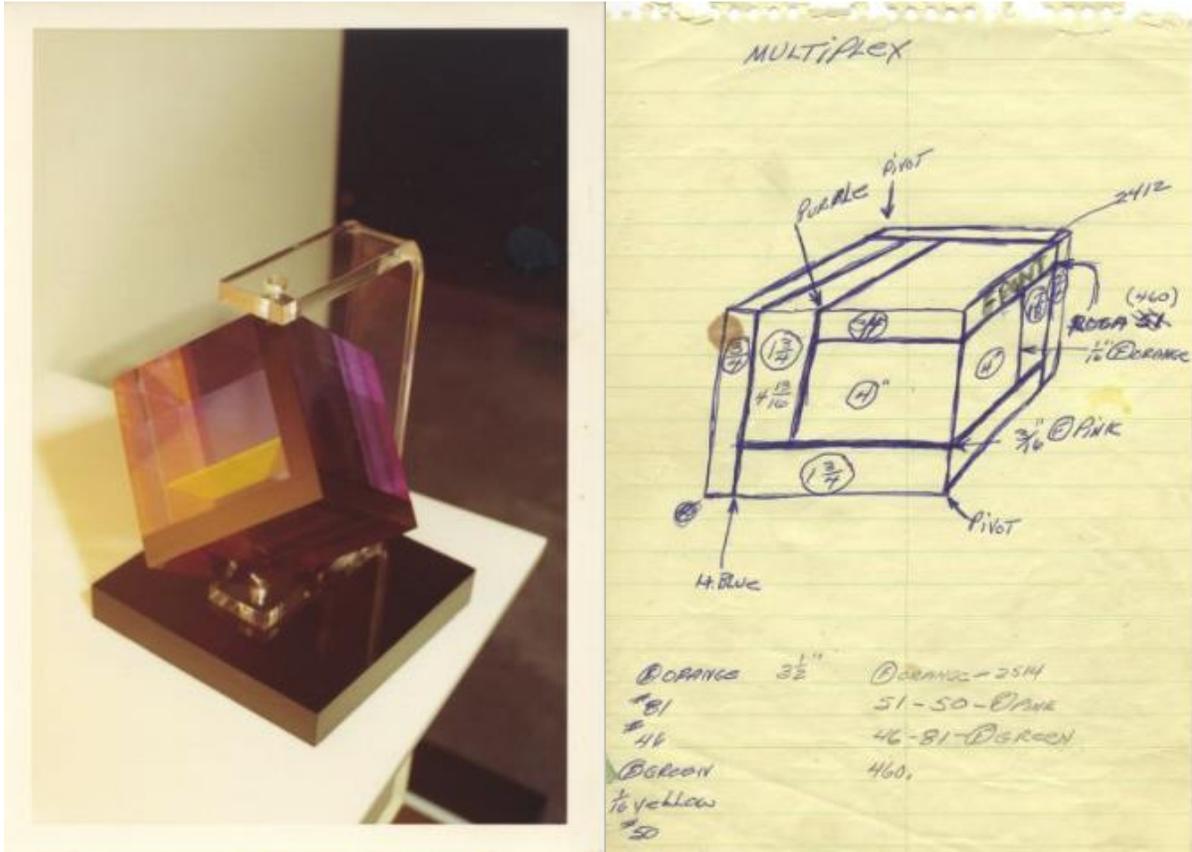
The **Senator John Heinz History Center**, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, presents American history with a Western Pennsylvania connection. The History Center and Sports Museum are located at 1212 Smallman Street in the city's Strip District. The History Center's family of museums includes the Sports Museum; the Fort Pitt Museum in historic Point State Park; and Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, a National Historic Landmark located in Avella, Pa., in Washington County. More information is available at heinzhistorycenter.org.

The **Irving and Aaronel deRoy Gruber Foundation** was established to steward the artwork and creative legacy of deRoy Gruber and to engage and support Pittsburgh-based and regional contemporary visual art institutions, initiatives, and practicing artists. The foundation's gallery opened at its current location in Pittsburgh in 2020 to represent the organization's mission through rotating exhibits, special projects, and interactions with audiences and professionals locally, nationally, and internationally.



As the nation celebrates Women's History Month in March, the Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives, in collaboration with the Irving and Aaronel deRoy Gruber Foundation, launched a [new digital archive](#) that documents deRoy Gruber's career through files maintained by the artist.

Photo: Aaronel deRoy Gruber in her art studio surrounded by her paintings, c. 1960s. deRoy Gruber first worked from her family home on Beechwood Boulevard in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood. She eventually moved into a studio above a garage before ending up in one in Verona, Pa and later Chalfont area. 1987. Detre Library & Archives at the Heinz History Center.



The Aaronel deRoy Gruber Papers and Photographs is a digital collection featuring notes, sketches, photographs, and more from deRoy Gruber's six-decade career. Photos: deRoy Gruber documented the planning process and creation of her sculpture "Multiplex." Detre Library & Archives at the Heinz History Center.

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